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09/676,573 10/02/2000 Jerry Walter Malcolm AUS000069US1

CONFIRMATION NO.

BRACEWELL & PATTERSON, L.L.P. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW P.O. BOX 969 AUSTIN, TX 78767-0969 5168

Date Mailed: March 17, 2005

NOTICE OF IMPROPER LETTER OF EXPRESS ABANDONMENT

The letter	of express abandonment under 37 CFR 1.138 is improper for reason(s)
indicated b	pelow:
_/	the industry OFD
<u>/</u> 1.	The letter of express abandonment was not signed by a party authorized under 37 CFR 1.33(b)(1), (b)(3), or (b)(4). A registered practitioner, not of record, who acts in a representative capacity under 37 CFR 1.34 when filing a continuing application, may only expressly abandon the prior application as of the filing date granted to the continuing application. See 37 CFR 1.138(b).
2	The letter of express abandonment was not filed prior to the payment of the issue fee, and no petition under 37 CFR 1.313 was granted. If this application has not yet issued as a patent, applicant may wish to consider filing a petition under 37 CFR 1.313 to withdraw this application from issue.
3	The letter of express abandonment was not filed prior to the issuance of the patent.
4	The letter of express abandonment was not filed prior to the abandonment of the application. A notice of abandonment was mailed to the applicant on

Inquiries regarding this communication should be directed to the Pre-Grant Publication Division at (703) 605-4283.

Barbara J. Debnam

Pre-Grant Publication Division